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MATWATCH

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STEVE'S SIDELIGHTS By Steve Beverly

IN THE MIDNIGHT HOUR...

"If one goes, we all go..."

---JIM CORNETTE, TBS
2/18/89

Some weeks, something just has to be said. For several weeks now, the prospect of an NWA without Jim Cornette & the Midnight Express has been the subject of perpetual rumor. With their existing contract expiring April 15, that prospect has taken on more than subtle overtones.

Let me preface my remarks by saying I have talked to Jim Cornette all of about five times in my life, so he hardly qualifies as the brother I never had or my running buddy.

This past week, TBS took a positive step by offering the Midnights and Cornette a new contract, not for the \$225,000-a-year each Jim Crockett inked them for, an unrealistic figure, based on house and pay revenues, but for a respectable salary figure, nonetheless.

Yet, the deal is not as certain as one might think or hope. MATWATCH has learned from sources outside the company that questions remain as to how the Midnight Express will be used and whether their exposure will be worthwhile. We have even been told that some elements within the company believe the Midnights' major days as money draws are over and one influential party still holds either a grudge or at least ill feelings with Bobby Eaton over a situation many years' past.

First, from this corner, it may indeed be true that the Midnights could not draw as NWA world tag team champions as they could in 1985 ---but, then again, the Road Warriors aren't exactly selling out houses in 1989. But unless an Owen Hart-Brian Pillman combination is available, I can't name you a team to match the buoyancy, workrate and precision of Lane & Eaton and you sure won't find it in Vincent Young & Steve Casey.

Second, this is 1989. And I am sick to nausea of people in the pro wrestling business letting old grudges serve to foul up quality performers. That and ego is what finally ended the NWA stewardship of Dusty Rhodes.

and has no room in a contemporary media organization. Besides, the NWA is already minus The Fantastics and can ill-afford to lose a counterpart babyface team.

As for Mr. Cornette, he may have his detractors in and out of the NWA but they are few. Since 1985, Jim Cornette has been to the NWA what Don Knotts was to THE ANDY GRIFFITH SHOW, what Allen Ludden was to PASSWORD and what Bea Benaderet was to PETTICOAT JUNCTION. When those performers left their respective programs, the shows continued but without the verve and spark of their past. Such, I feel, is the gemlike quality of Cornette, who---in my view---is worth at least half a national cable rating point in the midst of a sea of televised mismatches. His win as MATWATCH 1988 OUTSTANDING TV PERSONALITY is hardly essential ---but, as a past TV news executive, I can tell you managers would be fighting over anchor talent with that kind of following.

True, Paul E. Dangerously is being built into a managerial star and he is one of my personal favorites. But while no man is irreplaceable, there is only one Jim Cornette. To think of an NWA Saturday without him is like Lawrence Welk without bubbles.

Plus, the Midnight Express ought to be showcased in places other than Shallotte, N.C., when the rest of the gang is in the big towns.

I'm not privy to what problems may yet exist but as painful as it is for me to say, we've seen people come into the NWA with far less star quality recently than the Midnight Express & Jim Cornette. Money is said not to be a big factor. And the threesome is not said to covet working for Titan Sports. So whatever the remaining hangups, on both sides of the fence, let's get them settled...For the sake of people who buy tickets and possess ratings service diaries.

CABLE RATINGS RAP (Week of March 11-13)

	Rating	Share	Total Homes
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 3/13)	3.7	5.7	1.732 mil.
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 3/12)	3.2	8.6	1.498 mil.
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 3/12)	2.8	5.5	1.353 mil.
NWA WORLD CH. (TBS 3/11)	2.2	4.2	1.06 mil.
NWA MAIN EVENT AM (TBS 3/11)	0.8	6.0	386,400

(ANALYSIS: The WWF build keeps PTW hopping along. The 3.7 Monday night was even higher than the FACE to FACE special. The red-flag is with the NWA Saturday night show, which hit a low for 1989 with a 2.2, even with Ric Flair competing. The 7:05 a.m. show posted its same rating for the fourth straight week but, interestingly, GUNSMOKE was averaging a 1.4 before wrestling was moved to the early slot.)

*** THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES ***

**TERRY FUNK CANCELS APRIL 2
APPEARANCE AT CLASH VI**

Former NWA world champion Terry Funk has backed out of a planned appearance with seven other former NWA champions on the April 2 CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS VI from New Orleans.

Funk has told friends he prefers wrestling on the show to being lumped with former champs as an "old-timer." Recently, Funk has been wrestling with Dusty Rhodes' Florida-based PWF.

The other seven champions, who include former titleholder Dory Funk Jr., Terry's brother, are still scheduled to be in New Orleans for the Ricky Steamboat-Ric Flair rematch.

**VINCE PLANS MAY 6 WWF
SHOW IN NASHVILLE**

NASHVILLE - In another effort to dilute the drawing power of an NWA pay-cable show, Vince McMahon has scheduled a WWF event May 6, one night prior to Turner Home Entertainment's WRESTLE WAR '89: MUSIC CITY SHOWDOWN.

The WWF show, tentatively scheduled for the same arena as WW'89, will feature a Hulk Hogan-Randy Savage rematch topping the card.

The NWA is expected to announce a final Ric Flair-Ricky Steamboat showdown for May 7 but that is yet to be confirmed with the Atlanta office. McMahon is not believed to be planning a live free cable show on the USA network to challenge the pay card head-to-head.

**FNN TO AIR CAULIFLOWER ALLEY
CLUB BANQUET AS SPRING SPECIAL**

LOS ANGELES - The annual Cauliflower Alley Club tribute to old-time wrestling stars will air as a one-hour special on FNN/SCORE at a date to be determined this spring.

Broadway Danny Wolf and Arnie Rosenthal will co-host the program, which honors former stars Johnny Valentine, Killer Kowalski, Red Bastien, June Byers and Dr. Lee Grable.

The show, taped March 11, also features interviews with Dick (The Destroyer) Beyer, John Tolos, Pepper Gomez, Danny McShane and the Fabulous Moolah.

Wolf intends to show clips of some of the veterans' matches. In addition, McShane, who had been scheduled to make the trip with former promoter Paul Boesch, provides emotional moments in reminiscing about Boesch, who died March 8.

I'm still shaking my head that a local channel (WTOG, St. Petersburg) would be allowed to carry a "supercard" live for a fledgling promotion---in this case, Dusty Rhodes' PWF.

In all, the eight-bout card was better than you might expect, in a collective sense. Some quality moments came forward in an early eight-man tag match, even though the Southern Force team of Black Bart & Bobby Jagers offered mostly restholds. But Brett Sawyer and The Italian Stallion worked well and the Laurinidas Brothers, Johnny Ace & The Terminator, demonstrated why they're destined for stardom.

Though not as strong as in some events I've seen, Terry Funk stole the show in his match designed to get Dustin Rhodes over (which he succeeded in doing), first by stomping the tar out of a planted fan who was parading at ringside with a placard calling Dustin AMERICA'S BABY. In the match, Funk took some bumps most 45-year-olds would have consigned to the rest farm.

Dusty's decided to give most of his performers character nicknames but I can't get into calling Steve Keirn "Gator".

In the title match, I may have witnessed the worst federation championship contest of all time. The finishing move, Steelman missing a fly off the top rope and Dusty rolling over for a pin, was so anticlimactic most of the 1,500 spectators missed it.

As a television special, production was adequate for a local effort in the 13th market. Ring lighting was strong and no major audio glitches developed. Plus, Dick Clark (on tape) even announced the promotional consideration credits.

But several missed camera shots came at critical spots. The ringside camera almost missed Oliver Humperdink turning on Dick Slater by posting him and the Dusty pinfall was scored with the referee's hand out of position for the first two counts, making it difficult to determine the match had ended. Plus, the wide-angle camera was in a spot where it shook with every movement of the crowd. Another camera was often out of position and focus during ring entrances.

Perhaps the biggest disappointment to me was in the performance of Gordon Solie. Perhaps it's the changes in the business or the toll all the years of smoking have taken on the voice but Gordon seemed quite unenthusiastic during most of the show. He almost never counted or even described the false finishes and during most of the pinfalls---including the big title match---Gordon's commentary reflected a "ho-hum, another victory" attitude.

Little can be said for color commentator Diamond Dallas Page, the poor man's Michael Hayes, who was stuck on two words: "bruh-thuh" and "Goddon." As for guest interviewer Kim Devane, the stereotypical word "airhead" would be too kind. And the most embarrassing moment came when Gil Cabot was efforting a post-match interview with Dusty and The Big Ball of Cholesterol walked away.

MATWATCH 25 RATING: Quality of Matches: 2.3, Crowd Enthusiasm, 2.7; Announcing, 2.0; Total Production, 2.8; Overall Excellence, 2.3. TOTAL RATING: 12.1 on a scale of 25.

***** COMINGS & GOINGS *****

A LONG SUMMER?: This could all be a deliberate disinformation campaign but we're told Titan is considering not giving Hulk Hogan the WWF belt at WM5 because of the heat Savage is getting as a heel champion. One consideration is to let the Hogan-Savage conflicts continue through summer, climaxed by a Hogan title victory at SUMMER SLAM '89.

A LONG NIGHT: MATWATCHer Chris Foster of Albany, Ga., attended the NWA TV tapings Tuesday night and called them "horrible." All squashes for TV with only two "main events" (dark) and Chris says lots of complaining over standard ticket prices and so many mismatches. Many threats not to return.

A LONG SHOW: Speaking of...I'll join the brigade right now of those who say TBS has to solve the boredom of its TV shows (and in syndication) immediately. At least I used to be able to tell who was wrestling who, based on the TV shows, in the arenas. Now---other than Flair-Steamboat---I can't. Just nothing competitive or compelling to make you want to watch or buy a ticket.

BILLY BOY: Early enthusiasm over Bill Dundee's arrival as CWF booker. Terry Gordy turned heel on the same night Michael Hayes was doing likewise in Atlanta.

GORDY-FURNAS: Gordy accomplished his switch in an on-stage angle with Doug Furnas at the point a coin was being flipped to pick the top contender for Jerry Lawler's "unified" world title, which we are told Lawler will now defend in CWF circles. Gordy clotheslined Furnas on the stage, used a chair and was trying to rip up the stairway leading to the stage before Charlie Platt called a halt to it.

MORTON SALT: Ricky & Todd Morton worked the CWF tapings and we're told Dundee may be negotiating to bring in Robert Gibson. I guess Ricky & Todd were The Rock & Little Rock Express.

DOG DAYS: On the first hour, Tony Anthony attacked The Dog. Anthony was masquerading as the CWF mascot, The Continental Cat (which looks like a poor man's version of our university's Aubie) when he jumped the Dog. The real Cat then came out and Anthony jumped him, too, which some fans joke was a great public service.

AWF(UL) GONE: The American Wrestling Federation has ceased telecasting after only two shows in Chattanooga. Even McLean Stevenson's worst shows lasted longer than that.

NWA IN FLORIDA: The NWA will do its syndicated tapings the week after CLASH VI in Daytona Beach and West Palm Beach. Still no permanent co-host for Lance Russell on WORLD WIDE. Ricky Steamboat and Mike Rotunda alternated color chores on the two hours taped in Albany.

PASSING THE TORCH: Michael Hayes takes over as Jim Ross's sidekick on WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING next Saturday. He'll perform the same chores on CLASH VI. We're informed Magnum, T.A. was given a generous severance after being dropped. If he opts to stay in the business, he'll probably wind up with Dusty's PWF.

ST. PETE: Dusty's planning a big show Friday night (the 24th) at the St. Petersburg Bayfront Center, which is way too ambitious, in my view. The Big Ball of Cholesterol defends his PWF belt against Bam Bam Bigelow. The Nasty Boys get a rematch for the Florida tag team belts against Johnny Ace (who is now wearing his hair like Kendall Windham) & The Terminator. Plus, a Mike Graham-Al Perez rematch.

PMTW STRETCH: The way the angle is being played to pick Joe Pedicino's successor on WVEU SUPERSTARS and PRO WRESTLING THIS WEEK is an elimination down to Sir Samuel Kent and John Michaels, who is being pressed to "make a decision" to continue with SCW or join PMTW full-time, so the storyline goes.

ANOTHER VOICE: Speaking of SCW, Alan Starr continues his classic work as announcer. Last week, Ben Masters, who's worked with the Americus, Ga., splinter group, Peach State Wrestling, did color and my Aunt Lollie would have been more entertaining.

STRETCHING IT: Paul Kagan Associates' PAY TV NEWSLETTER has just released the all-time rankings for boxing and wrestling pay-per-view shows, according to their own estimates, and I believe all of the figures to be high for wrestling. Kagan even listed STARRCADE as grossing close to \$5 million,

which TBS will agree is overblown. All of the WWF grosses follow Titan's company line information.

GOOD JOB: By the way, the WRESTLING HOTLINE 900 number promo on TBS is the work of Jim Clawson, who is part of the sports promotion staff for Turner.

MERCY, PERCY: This weekend marks the second of what I'm told are three TV weekends in a row that Percy Pringle III is beaten by Akbar's Devastation, Inc., on WCCW. Houses continue to be a woe here. A recent upper midwest swing saw World Class draw 80 fans at a small-town Wisconsin show.

PIT STOP?: FNN/SCORE officials are still being led to believe Roddy Piper is going to do the planned PIPER'S PIT pilot, which was scrubbed after Piper's signing to do WM5. But another insider has told MATWATCH he believes SCORE is being played for a ride by a separate party simply out to wangle a show for himself on the cable net.

PILLMAN'S PROGRESS?: Brian Pillman has been offered an NWA slot, effective April 3, but we're told it's as the tag partner of Vincent Young. ????

A GREAT LINEAGE: Keiiji Muto being billed as The Great Muto in the NWA and the storyline will develop him as the son of The Great Kabuki. He is already blowing the green mist.

MORE HIT LIST: Danny Davis, Nikolai Volkoff and The Conquistadors are also on the post-WM5 pink slip list for Titan.

ANOTHER BLOW: Finally, WXTX in Columbus, Ga., is being sold to local ownership and the new owner says one of his first moves will be to cut back on the seven weekly hours of pro wrestling.

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***** YOU SAID IT!!! *****

If the NWA could produce TV shows like they did CHI-TOWN RUMBLE, Vince McMahon would be quaking in his boots. Flair-Steamboat has to rate on the top ten all-time list, if not the best. And Jim Ross made the top ten all-time announcers' list with his work.

CHRIS FOSTER
ALBANY GA

Thumbs up on the NWA CHI-TOWN RUMBLE but only because of Flair vs. Steamboat. The rest of it stunk, save for the wrestling "skills" of Cornette & Paul E. Flair vs. Steamboat was the best pay-per-view match I have witnessed.

JOHN LANIGAN
MCKEESPORT PA

I would like to say what an excellent job you did on Lance Russell joining the NWA story. As you said, it's good to see some of the "good guys" get a break. And I was also glad to hear another of my favorites, Joe Pedicino, another "good guy," get a break and I expected him to get it.

STEVE MASTROPIETRO
MECHANICSVILLE NY

I guess it's up to Joe Pedicino to save the NWA on TV. If what I've seen on TV the last three weeks is any indication, I'm going to get some good naps while NWA PRO and WORLD WIDE are on. I hope Joe can do something fast. If he can't, nobody can.

JERRY WILLIAMS
TALLAHASSEE FL

(FSB: Jerry, Joe won't be the only creative force behind NWA TV but he'll be doing some segments that I think will be entertaining. But I agree, the TV has been a collective snoozer since mid-February.)

How much longer are Ted Turner, Jack Petrik and Jim Herd going to accept this excuse for a TV product? When Turner bought the NWA, we all felt like great days were ahead and we were going to have a true wrestling promotion. I love the NWA but I have to grudgingly admit that the WWF is putting out a more entertaining show now and that's like biting nails.

ANN ARNOLD
SHELBYVILLE TN

(FSB: Unfortunately, this is reflective of the overwhelming pulse of callers and letter-writers of the past two weeks.)

It'd be my luck (Bill) Dundee takes over as booker to improve things (in the CWF) and they drop Chattanooga. Hopefully, they won't, though, and they'll get a regular time slot here and try and promote Chattanooga in the right way.

I hate to admit it but I enjoyed the WWF's MAIN EVENT Saturday. For action bouts, I thought it was about their best MAIN EVENT. The tag bout was particularly good.

DAVID WILLIAMSON
CLEVELAND TN

I think you should do monthly ratings for American wrestlers. Here is my top 10 based on work rate in recent matches: 1) Ric Flair, 2) Barry Windham, 3) Shawn Michaels, 4) Arn Anderson, 5) Marty Jannetty, 6) Tully Blanchard, 7) Ricky Steamboat, 8) Ted DiBiase, 9) Curt Hennig, 10) Randy Savage.

Personally, I think Owen Hart is the best wrestler in the world when allowed to show his ability. If a wrestler hasn't done anything recently, he won't make my top 10.

DAVE HANNAH
STUDIO CITY CA

I basically agreed with your assessment of CTR '89; it was a fantastic show, the best major wrestling show I've seen since WM3. But I have some quibbles with your report:

***I didn't think quite as much of Flair-S Steamboat as you did. Flair's staleness as a heel and his overexposed repertoire of moves hurts him. I gave it 3½* on the OBSERVER scale (whereas the Steamboat-Savage match at WM3 was a full star higher in my opinion) but awarded Luger-Windham a solid 4.

***...Good as the card was, Ross's constant hyperbole is EXTREMELY annoying. And, please, Flair IS great but no WAY is he the "undisputed greatest NWA champion of all time." Even if you only count the actual NWA champions, there's Dory Jr. and Lou Thesz, both of whom dominated the title to an equal or greater degree.

BILL KUNKEL
WOODHAVEN NY

(FSB: Bill also correctly pointed out my error in calling the M Ex's winning move as a double flapjack, not double DDT.)

(YOU SAID IT!!! appears monthly in MATWATCH.
Letters to: YOU SAID IT!, 213 PINE HILLS AVE.,
AUBURN AL 36830. Also, next week, a MATWATCH
SHOPPERS NETWORK for all tape and merchandise traders.
Please send your requests to the same address.)

PINFALL PROFILE: How Syndication Works

Final of 3 Parts

When your local TV station manager schedules a wrestling show, he either pays cash for it, takes it on a barter (free) basis in exchange for commercial time, or is paid by a promoter to carry it. Now, the show must perform in the ratings.

Say a show pulls a 5 rating, it means 5 percent of all the TV homes in a market are watching the show. In other words, if a market has 400,000 homes, a 5 rating means 20,000 homes are tuned.

When we say a show does a "10 share," it means 10% of all the homes with television sets in use during a show's time period. So, if 200,000 homes have sets on, a 10 share means 20,000 homes are tuned to a given show.

Stations sell advertising based on ratings. If a show does a 5 rating and wins its time period, it is considered a success. But if that 5 rating show is opposite programs with 8, 9 or 10 ratings, it is a candidate for cancellation unless on an independent station which rarely draws a 5 rating with any other show.

Even more important are demographics. A station may draw a 5 total rating. But if that translates to an 8 or 9 rating among males age 18-49, chances are local car dealers, tire companies or hardware stores will want to buy into the show.

Sometimes wrestling shows fail because they're improperly packaged. WAITL in Atlanta was drawing almost no audience with Memphis wrestling in 1985. Why? It aired at 8 a.m. Saturdays with no promotion and no local tie-ins to the wrestlers. When WAITL packaged wrestling as a marathon "party" with a local host (Joe Pedicino) who knew the fans and competitors, wrestling flourished.

But a new trend has little to do with ratings. Some station managers are now saying they don't want their stations to be known as "the wrestling channel," because of the oversaturation on the tube. It happened at WAITL last fall even with wrestling still attracting strong numbers. WATX in Columbus, Ga., which does respectable numbers with a nightly 8 p.m. wrestling strip has just been sold to a local fast-food chain operator who has immediately declared he wants to cut back sharply on wrestling. The image is still not something many managers are comfortable with and when the cutbacks come, your only weapon is the letter or phone call to your local station. And believe me, it is worth the effort to exercise it, particularly in small to medium markets where management has closer ties to its audience.

TV TEMPO (Week of March 13-19)

MATWATCH SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale rating.

(SCW) - Steve Lawler/Dino Minelli d. Schoolboy Crush; Chic Donovan d. Louie Louie; Joel Deaton d. Steve Reeves and whips him with a strap; Mr. Atlanta/David Sammartino draw w. Georgia Power; Tommy Rich d. Bobby Bennett; Ga. Power brings out "weasel" from computer date service to anger Sir Samuel Kent. BOMB-PLUS.

(ATLANTIC COAST) - ACW TAG TOURNAMENT: 1) M.O.D. Squad d. Ring Lords; 2) S. Pacific Connection wins DQ over Deaton Bros.; OTHERS: Robert Gibson d. Joe Cruz; Tommy (American Eagle) Angel d. George South; David Isley d. Trent Knight; Jimmy Garvin wins DQ over Nelson Royal. RESTHOLD.

(WCW) - Kevin Von Erich wins DQ over Super Black Ninja when Devastation, Inc., runs in; Brickhouse Brown d. Frogman LeBlanc; Cactus Jack Manson d. Tony Falk and cuts Tony's hair; 6-MAN: Kevin Von Erich/J.J. Funk/Cpl. Braddock d. Gary Young/Ninja/Kendo Nagasaki. ANGLE: Percy Pringle III is beaten by Devastation during argument w. Skandor Akbar. RESTHOLD-PLUS.



(PWTW) - John Michaels d. Rick Leet; SCW, Ga. Power draw w. Mr. Atlanta/David Sammartino; WWF, WMS Update; CWF, Bill Dundee d. Scott Sadlin; WOOH, Jeff Jarrett/Brickhouse Brown win DQ over Beauty & the Beast; CWA, Jed Grundy/Scott Steiner d. Robert Fuller/Jimmy Golden; STAMPEDE, Cuban Assassin d. Leet; Joe Pedicino makes emotional farewell as PWTW host. MARS
WRESTLER OF WEEK - Ricky Steamboat. POWERSLAM.

(CWA/SYND.) - CWA TITLE: Jeff Jarrett d. Dutch Mantel to win belt; REPLAY: Jerry Lawler eggs Ronald V. Gossett IV; Mason-Dixon Connection d. Rough & Ready; Frankie Lancaster wins DQ over P.Y. Chu Hi; Action Jackson/Master of Pain d. Chris Frazier/Freezer Thompson. DRAW-PLUS.

(FLORIDA) - Scott Hall d. The Grappler; Commandos d. Luis Astea/Kevin Catlin; Bam Bam Bigelow d. Rick Diamond; Dustin Rhodes/Italian Stallion win DQ over Southern Force and Stallion juices. BLAST FROM THE PAST: Dusty Rhodes vs. Terry Funk; scenes of old sequence of Oliver Humperdink as Dusty's "maid for a month." RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(AWA) - Mando & Chavo Guererro d. Steve Butler/Jake Milliman; Mike Enos/Wayne Bloom d. Top Guns; Greg Gagne d. Chris Curtis; Sgt. Slaughter loses DQ to Col. DeBeers by tossing DeBeers over top rope. CLASSIC: Bobo Brazil wins DQ over Baron Von Raschke; REPLAY: Wahoo McDaniel/Tom Zenk d. Larry Zbyszko/Manny Fernandez; PWI PRESS CONFERENCE: Bill Apter w. Ken Patera. BOMB-PLUS.

(CWF) - Hunters d. Rick Valentino/Brad Anderson; Ricky & Todd Morton d. David Elder/Alan Martin; Johnny & Davey Rich d. J.D. Wolfe/Terry Adonis; Danny Davis/Willie B. Hert d. Mike Masters/Rick Stone. CLIP: Todd Morton vs. Mongolian Stomper; ANGLES: Tony Anthony attacks The Dog & Continental Cat (see COMINGS & GOINGS); Hunters jump Davis/Hert and pour flour on Willie B.; Bill Dundee puts up 3k diamond ring for shot at CWF title. RESTHOLD.

(NWA/TBS) - (WOW): Barry & Kendall Windham d. Michael Hayes/Lex Luger when Hayes turns on Luger and Barry lariat Lex for pin. Hayes suggests he's "taken Japanese money" to turn; Ranger Ross (debut) d. Lee Scott; Guest Muta (debut) d. Crusher Jay; Sting d. Snake Brown; Eddie Gilbert/Rick Steiner d. Enforcer/Max McGyver; Other winners: SST, Iron Sheik, Mike Rotunda, Danny Spivey & Steve Williams, Butch Reed & Rip Morgan, JYD/Dick Murdoch/Steve Casey (6-man). DANGER ZONE: Paul E. Dangerously w. JYD. RESTHOLD.
[MAIN EVENT]: Midnight Express d. Julio Barrera/David Heath; Abdullah the Butcher d. McGyver; Steiner d. Kevin Sullivan; Ric Flair/Barry Windham d. Eddie Gilbert/Luger when Luger thrown over the top and Gilbert takes illegal lariat from Barry. POWERSLAM.

(NWA/SYND.) - [WORLD WIDE]: U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP, Gilbert & Steiner d. Sullivan & Williams to win belts when Eddie rolls up Kevin; Midnight Express win DQ over Trent Knight/Rip Morgan; Sting d. McGyver; Luger d. Gary Royal; Rotunda/Spivey d. Steve Casey/George South; SST d. Crash Chandler/Gator Gilmore. ANGLE: SST jump M Ex during match and dangerously gets in solid blows on Cornette. Good brawl. DEBUT SEGMENT: JOE PEDICINO KNOWS, with Flair & Steamboat in one and Paul E./SST and Steiner/Gilbert in other. DRAW-PLUS.

[NWA PRO]: Steiner/Gilbert d. Knight/Johnny Meadows; Iron Sheik d. Bob Emory; Sting d. Joe Cuzana; SST d. Meadows/Keith Hart; Williams/Rotunda/Spivey d. Hayes/JYD/Casey. CLIPS: Flair-Steamboat at CHI-TOWN. Same PEDICINO KNOWS segs. BOMB-PLUS.

(WEF) - [SUPERSTARS]: From SNME: Brutus Beefcake wins DQ over Rick Rude; Liz Poffo decides to accompany neither Hulk Hogan or Randy Savage to WMS. Rockers d. Mike Sharpe/Mitch Casey; Anabolic Warrior d. Joey Milano; Powers of Pain d. George Skaaland/Tony Ray; Other winners: Curt Hennig, Haku. BRO. LOVE w. Red Rooster. WMS Update w. more Hogan & Savage comments. BOMB-PLUS.

[CHALLENGE]: Demolition d. Coleman/Wise; Jake Roberts d. Wayne Kinsey; Rick Rude d. Terry Daniels; Sheepwackers d. Conquistadors; Dino Bravo d. Tim Sawyer; From SNME: Rooster d. Brooklyn Brawler; Same WMS Update as on SUPERSTARS. BOMB-PLUS.

(LEARNING THE ROPES) - The kids have to rush to get the house in order when their mother calls to say she's returning home and Robert (Lyle Alzado) catches the mumps. But their anticipation ends in disappointment. MATCH: Larry Zbyszko d. Masked Maniac. REPEAT....but Zbyszko isn't bad in his acting slot.

LINE OF THE WEEK - 1. Gordon Solie & Oliver Humperdink, FCW: GS, "Your ocular observations differ from mine." OH, "Just leave my oculars out of this." 2. Paul E. Dangerously, NME: "Did you ever notice Joe Pedicino is 30% rear end?" 3. Humperdink, FCW: "I notice Dustin's trying to grow a little moustache. Must be trying to look like his mother." 4. Jim Ross, NME, to Paul E.: "Have you got a number for Madonna? She got a divorce notice. Lord knows, I know about those." 5. Paul E., TBS: "What's the difference between Elvis Presley & Randy Rose? Elvis still makes money. (Ha ha ha ha ha)." 6. Verne Gagne, AWA: "Here in the AWA, we're an old-fashioned league." 7. Jesse Ventura, WWF: "McMahon, stop thinking." 8. Ventura, WWF: "Fair and square don't count as long as you win." 9. Diamond D. Page, HOMECOMING: "This guy's a typical Dusty Rhodes fan. He has 2 or 3 teeth missing." 10. Kevin Sullivan, NWA: "Steiner has the IQ of a cucumber."

11. Pedicino, NWA: "Kevin Sullivan is another in a long line of men to find being distracted by Missy Hyatt is dangerous." 12. Tom Prichard, CWF: "Their idea (Riches) of a party is sitting in a haystack and watching grass grow." 13. Nelson Royal, ACW: "Jimmy Garvin, where have you had Precious? Out cutting grass or trimming trees?" 14. Ross, TBS: "Snake Brown looks like he goes to the same barber as Don King." 15. Ross, TBS: "Snake must have been on the board of directors of Eastern Airlines. They made some bad decisions, too." 16. Paul E., DANGER ZONE: "JYD, you know why you're a happily married man? Because your girl friend's in town." 17. Stevens, AWA: "Slaughter dropped him (DeBeers) like a 2-foot putt." 18. Marc Lowrance, WOOH: "You could smell it (Devastation attack on Percy) like flowers in the spring." 19. Ventura, WWF: "George Skaaland? He ain't related to that old relic, Arnold Skaaland, is he?" 20. Humperdink, FCW: "I have a hard time seeing these Commandos with all this camouflage on." 21. Ross & Sullivan, TBS: JR, "You know Margo Adams?" KS, "We knew her before Wade Boggs did."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Solie, HOMECOMING: "The Funks are the only two brothers ever to hold the world title...something eclipsed now by the PWF championship." 2. Ric Flair, NWA: "With Eddie Gilbert, Missy Hyatt is just so-so. With the Nature Boy, she's all there is."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Steve Williams, TBS: "When is Ted Turner gonna start spending some money and get some air conditioning in here?" 2. Brother Love, WWF: "Red Rooster, are you gonna be chasing some hen in the barnyard?"

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. Diamond D. Page, FCW, for calling Terry Funk "the Jake LaMotta of pro wrestling." 2. Rick Steiner, NWA, for calling Mike Rotunda "Captain Stupid."

SOLIEISM OF THE WEEK - Solie, HOMECOMING: "Mr. Humperdink was gesticulating with that flag as if it were a weapon."

INSIDE INFO OF WEEK - Eddie Gilbert, TBS, for saying Paul E. got his segment by "fighting our poor executive producer, George Scott, around the office until he had to give it to you."

BEST PICTURES - 1. AWA, shot of Lee Marshall with tuxedo, tennis shoes and no socks. 2. CWF, shot of cleanup crew sweeping out ring as final credits aired.

WORST ANGLE - CWF, Hunters pouring flour on Willie B. Hert.

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Ventura, WWF: "...bitten off more than they can chew." 2. Charlie Platt, CWF: "...blood is thicker than water." 3. Ray Stevens, AWA: "...no bed of roses."

BLOOPER AWARD - WORLD WIDE, for ring announcer introducing Luger as "the World U.S. champion."

DREADED GLITCH AWARD - AWA, for camera shot of arena ceiling.

IMPERSONATION OF THE WEEK - Ross, TBS, for mimicking Ronald Reagan honoring Ranger Ross: "Well, Ranger...I'm really proud of you."

BOO AWARD - Dusty Rhodes, for walking away from attempted post-match victory interview on THE HOMECOMING special.

TUBE TALK

Not just because he's my friend but JOE PEDICINO KNOWS is a very positive step. Joe looks like he's in Ward Cleaver's den with a big-screen monitor, pitching to interviews and inside news....Having said that, after the Gilbert/Steiner U.S. tag title win, the NWA needed a live arena interview with the winners and Lance Russell. Joe segued well out of it but the Gilbert/Steiner PEDICINO KNOWS interview was on Steiner's quest to regain the TV belt and was out of sync....The WORLD WIDE show was much better and WCW at least detailed the Hayes turn from the Omni but NWA PRO was a bore and on the A.M. version of NWA MAIN EVENT on TBS, the Pedicino seg was plugged but didn't air...Paul E. called the seg JOE PEDICINO'S NOSE.

These AWA voiceovers with Lee Marshall & Ray Stevens are snoozers and the reason is Stevens....Jimmy Golden & Mongolian Stomper plugged as coming into CWF to feud with the Mortons....AWA's next ESPN show April 1 at 11:30 p.m. (ET)....I caught about 15 minutes of Nelson Royal's ACW show and Nicola Roberts did a quality job as a color commentator....Dory Funk Jr. did intro to FCW "mat classic" and did it reading from a piece of paper.

Jim Ross's Reagan imitation was one of those unexpected bits that had me rolling....I'm flattered at the quote on the CHITOWN RUMBLE videocassette ad but I wonder how flattered Luger is at the "surprisingly outstanding match" quote. That indicates I wasn't expecting much from the match, doesn't it?....I get the idea just from Saturday's buildup that Bob Emory may be moving into the old Curtis Thompson role as the jobber who may eventually get a win.

LATE NOTES: Abdullah the Butcher may, indeed, be history in the NWA. Promotion said to be upset because he booked himself in Japan on same date as April 2 show....If Butcher doesn't appear, Muto (Mota) would be likely sub vs. Steve Casey....Two weekends ago in New Orleans on TV, the April 2 show was plugged "at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Auditorium." How do these things happen?...Finally, the Southland Wrestling Association drew 400 (est. \$2,000) for a card in which Steve Armstrong and Scott Armstrong each beat local jobbers, Mr. Wrestling II (not Johnny Walker)/Pez Whatley/Butch Mantel (not Dutch) d. Juicy Johnny/Breathtaking Bobby/Dangerous Dave Baker; and in a surprise, Super D & Larry Santana d. The Bullet & Brad Armstrong in a Southeastern tag title match. Card Friday night in Cleveland TN.

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____ 2 ISSUES REMAINING
____ 1 ISSUE REMAINS
____ FINAL ISSUE OF SUBSCRIPTION
____ FINAL REMINDER TO RENEW

SUBSCRIPTION NEW OR EXTENDED THRU

JULY 3